

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 FTC-01 EA-06 NEA-09 /122 W

----- 077784

R 071033Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6849

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, PINT, DM

SUBJ: MOBIL FILES ITS INDEMNIFICATION CLAIM WITH DAHOMEAN
GOVT

REF A. ABIDJAN 10269 B. COTONOU 1947 C. COTONOU 1973

1. FORMER MOBIL/DAHOMY DIR (GREGOIRE CODO) HAS INFORMED
EMBASSY THAT ON MORNING OF 2 JAN MOBIL COURIER FROM ABIDJAN
DEPOSITED THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY MRGD WITH THE HEAD OF
COMMISSION CONSIDERING CLAIMS OF OIL COMPANIES. DUE TO DELAY IN
FLIGHT, COURIER COULD NOT ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS
DEC 31 (DEADLINE SET BY MRGD). DOCUMENTS WERE THEREFORE SUBMITTED
EARLY ON NEXT WORKING DAY.

2. ON BASIS OF FAIR MARKET VALUE OF ITS ASSETS IN DAHOMEY,
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MOBIL HAS REQUESTED INDEMNITY OF 180 TO 200 MILLION CFA

(OVER \$850,000). LIKE TEXACO'S REP (REF C) CODO EXPECTS MANY MONTHS TO PASS BEFORE DAHOMEAN GOVT REACHES DECISION REGARDING SETTLEMENT IT WILL OFFER.

3. CODO SAID HE HAD HEARD SHELL MADE A QUICK SETTLEMENT WITH MRGD FOR ITS CLAIMS. HE DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF EXACT AMOUNT OF SETTLEMENT, BUT SAID SUCH A PREMATURE ARRANGEMENT "SPOILED THE SITUATION" FOR THE OTHER OIL FIRMS. HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SHELL GAVE THE IDEA OF NATIONALIZATION TO THE MRGD EARLY IN 1974 WHEN IT ASKED GOVT TO TAKE OVER ITS OPERATIONS.

4. MIN OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ATCHADE) HAS INDICATED TO US THAT (A) ACCORD WITH SHELL HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED, AND (B) GOVT EXPECTS AGREEMENT WITH AGIP TO BE REACHED SHORTLY.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AGIP, AS WELL AS SHELL, HAD BEEN TRYING FOR MONTHS TO SELL OUT TO THE DAHOMEAN GOVT. THEY WERE THE TWO LEAST EFFICIENT PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS; BOTH REPORTEDLY RAN SUBSTANTIAL DEFICITS.
ENGLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IDENTITY DOCUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COTONO00023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0037
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750174/aaaacmpq.tel
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Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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